

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE B. BURKE

March 29, 2005

Organ and tissue donation is a life-giving act recognized worldwide as the greatest expression of compassion. More than 87,000 individuals nationwide and 18,000 in California are currently on the national organ transplant waitlist, and every 90 minutes one person dies while waiting for a donated organ.

A single individual's donation of the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas and small intestine can save up to eight lives, and donation of tissue can save and enhance the lives of up to 50 others. Each year 25,000 lives are saved and the quality of life for many hundreds of thousands more is enhanced by organ and tissue transplantation. Many bereaved families find a measure of comfort in donating lifesaving marrow and blood, a unit of which is needed every three seconds to help those in need.

THEREFORE, I MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Proclaim the month of April, 2005 as "National Donate Life Month" in the County of Los Angeles, and in doing so, we acknowledge the launch of the Donate Life California Registry and urge our citizens to learn the facts about organ and tissue donation and exercise their power to donate.

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